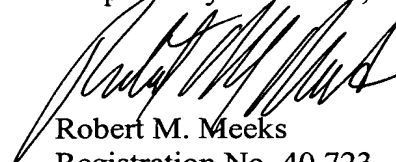


### REMARKS

In response to the indication of the potential allowability of Claims 3, 11 and 18, Applicant has amended these claims to independent form incorporating the recitations of the claims from which they originally depended. Applicant has also canceled Claims 1, 2, 10, 16 and 17 without prejudice or disclaimer toward pursuing these claims in a continuing application. Applicant has also changed the dependencies of Claims 7, 8, 14 and 21 in keeping with the other amendments. Applicant requests entry of these amendments, as they introduce no new matter, raise no new issues, and place the claims in condition for allowance. Applicant, therefore, requests allowance of the claims and passing of the application in due course. Applicant encourages the Examiner to contact the undersigned by telephone to resolve any remaining issues.

Respectfully submitted,

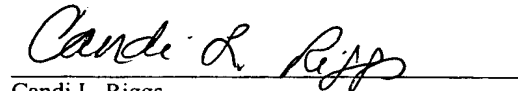


Robert M. Meeks  
Registration No. 40,723  
Attorney for Applicant

**USPTO Customer No. 20792**  
Myers Bigel Sibley & Sajovec  
Post Office Box 37428  
Raleigh, North Carolina 27627  
Telephone: 919/854-1400  
Facsimile: 919/854-1401

### CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop AF, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on December 21, 2005.



Candi L. Riggs